

(Source: Elisabeth (Lisa) J Haller, MD - Medical Director/MRO, Medical Analysis; March 13, 2020)

CORONAVIRUS 2nd UPDATE: March 13, 2020 – 3:06 p.m.

I wanted to update you on the Coronavirus and the suggestions we have. I am attaching some documents as well. We are following the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) updates throughout the day. Below are two websites if you would like to have up-to-date guidance and other information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html

There have been 2 cases of COVID-19 identified in Forrest County.

- The mortality rate is less than 1%.
- How to prevent the spread of the disease:
 - **SICK PEOPLE STAY HOME!!**
 - **Hand hygiene**- If you don't have hand sanitizer, use hand soap.
 - Do not have gatherings of greater than 250 people.
 - If someone is over 65 years of age, they may want to avoid events of greater than 50 people
- Who does it affect?
 - It is usually a mild disease
 - Much worse in people greater than 65 y/o
 - Worse in people with comorbid conditions like diabetes and heart disease.
 - Children appear to have far fewer infections and the symptoms are generally not as severe
- If an employee has fever, cough, and other cold symptoms, **CALL THE CLINIC FIRST.** We will ask the employee questions to evaluate:
 - If they need to come to the clinic. (ex. If patient needs RX refill it will be called in without a visit)

- If they do need to come to the clinic, do we need to isolate them immediately?
 - Do they meet the CDC criteria for COVID-19 testing?
- At this point, the vast majority of patients with URI symptoms do not have COVID-19!!
- Today per Dr. Dobbs with the MSDH- **DO NOT TEST A PATIENT WHO IS WELL WITHOUT SYMPTOMS!!**
- We ask supervisors to please not tell the employee that he/she cannot return to work until a COVID-19 test is done. There is an evaluation that needs to be done by the provider in order to determine if testing is needed.
 - Our primary goal is to keep the employees healthy and decrease the spread of this disease so that you can run your daily operations as smoothly as possible.